



**WASHINGTON STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (SERC)
MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Bill Whealan, SERC Chair
Assistant Chief Mike Harris, SERC Vice Chair
Chris Utzinger, Primary Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division
Brian Felczak, Alternate Westside LEPC Representation
Sean Davis, Primary Eastside LEPC Representation
Jeremy Beck, Alternate Eastside LEPC Representation
Richard Schroedel, Primary Local Emergency Management Representation
John Himmel, Primary Washington State Department of Transportation

TRIBAL REPRESENTATION:

Lee Shipman, Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Corrie Johnson, Kalispell Tribe

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mike Dingle, Douglas County Emergency Management
JoAnn Boggs, Pend Oreille County Emergency Management
Brad Larson, Pend Oreille County Emergency Management/Seattle City Light
Idell Hansen, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Kathleen LeGried, EPA Washington OPS

SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT:

Sadie Whitener, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
Ron Bowen, Washington State Patrol (WSP), Fire Protection Bureau
Lorri Gifford, Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD)

CONFERENCE BRIDGE:

John Butler, (Ecology) was unable to call in due to technical difficulties with the conference bridge. EMD staff will ensure that the conference bridge is operational prior to meetings. Those who have notified staff that they will be calling in, will be contacted immediately should a problem arise.

CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTION:

Chief Whealan called the meeting to order at 10:05. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Sean Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held March 19, 2013 as written (see Attachment #1). Brian Felczak seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CHAIR COMMENTS:

EMC Meeting – Chief Whealan, SERC Chair

Mike Harris attended the last Emergency Management Council (EMC) meeting as the SERC representative. Sadie Whitener also attended the meeting and added to Mike's summary. Below is a summary of the EMC meeting and a meeting that Chair Whealan and Mike Harris also had with Jim Hall, EMC Chair, to discuss the vision and role the EMC sees for the SERC.

- Strategic Planning Workgroup – EMC membership and sub-committee roles and responsibilities were reviewed to determine if changes to membership or responsibilities were needed.
- EMC Bylaws – Bylaws were reviewed to ensure they are still relevant. A few word-smithing changes were made and some formatting was cleaned up. Overall no major changes made.
- Meeting Schedule – The EMC voted to meet bi-monthly. The next meeting is June 6, 2013 at Camp Murray.
- Reporting Changes – EMC Sub-committees were also reviewed to determine their continued participation, what should be reported, what format should be used for reporting, etc. It was decided that EMC would have a “staff report” from each reporting member. Reports should not be more than a page and half and should be submitted to the Chair prior to the EMC meeting. Reports will no longer have to be given during the meeting, simply a change for the EMC to see what each member or workgroup is doing and ask questions as needed.
- Chair Jim Hall is planning on meeting with each EMC Commission/Committee chair to discuss goals and objectives in more detail.
- It was acknowledged that the SERC will continue the responsibility for implementation of SARA Title III (EPCRA) per the statute. Chair Hall asked the following questions:
 - *Are we ready for hazmat response?*
 - *How prepared are the LEPCs or local Emergency Operation Centers?*
 - *Has there been enough training, exercises, and public awareness?*
- EMC is giving SERC open structure, but would like updates on EPCRA reporting compliance, as well as LEPC hazmat planning efforts (who has them approved and when?).
- Chair Hall also brought up that there are many items in the emergency management world that are parallel, such as THIRA. Is there a way to consolidate efforts or create a cross walk report? Discussions on this topic will continue at EMC meetings.
- Restructure of the Committee on Homeland Security (CHS) – Sadie mentioned that the EMC voted to disband the CHS and have its two sub-committees, the Equipment Sub-Committee and the Infrastructure Protection Sub-Committee, report directly to the EMC.

WORKGROUP REPORTS:

Training Coordination – Ron Bowen (WSP)

- 2013 Hammer Conference – Positive feedback was received from approximately 120 attendees.
- 2014 Hammer Conference – The Planning Committee has already started to work on next year's conference. The courses, "Street Smart", "Bomb Class", and "Safety Officer" are planned again for next year, but will most likely drop the Operations course due to low enrollment.;
- Statewide HazMat Training – Student attendee numbers about the same as last year
 - Even though it is fire session, classes have been requested for July and August of 2013 because of need.
- The Safety Officer Course to be held June 2013 in Clallam County, still has openings.
- Next fiscal year's training schedule will be coming out later.
 - Some of the same courses will be offered again with some changes as requested by attendees/agencies.
- The State Chiefs Hazmat and Special Operations Conference will be held in August 2013 at Wenatchee.

EPCRA Compliance Workgroup – Sadie Whitener, Department of Ecology

Ecology is still receiving and entering paper Tier Two reports received for chemicals stored during 2012. She noted the majority of reporters filed online. To date, about 4,000 Tier Two – Emergency & Hazardous Chemical Inventory reports have been submitted to the SERC.

Sadie shared the new EPA reporting form, pointed out the additional fields, and the new reporting range codes. The new codes are still very broad and do not reflect the actual pounds stored on site. Sadie provided handouts showing the items that are different (see Attachments #2 & #3) from the existing form. The changes and new fields added by EPA are highlighted and include the following:

- EPA form provides open text boxes rather than the storage code, which means reporters may not enter useful information.
- EPA changed all the chemical inventory range codes.
- Sadie has checked with some other states and found that some are not planning to use the new EPA form. If LEPCs have developed their own databases, this will cause problems for them as well. The new form is quite different and would require them to make modifications to their database, which would be very costly.

Tier Two reporting is only one element of EPCRA reporting compliance that Ecology tracks on behalf of the SERC.

EPA's new form is not moving the EPCRA program forward, but would be taking us backwards.

Ecology did not ask the SERC to take action at this meeting, but requested members to take the information and bring their comments to the next meeting.

EPA staffs have stated that they will continue to provide compliance assistance and enforcement activities to those who are not in compliance, whether or not the new format is adopted.

HMEP Grant Status – Lorri Gifford (EMD)

- 2012-2013 – Status Report handout will be included with the meeting minutes (see Attachment #4).
- 2013-2014 – USDOT FFY14 Grant Application was returned to the Military Department with a request for additional detailed information to be returned by May 14, 2013. With help from Ron Bowen (WSP), and several others, the additional information was gathered and resubmitted to USDOT on May 13, 2013.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

SERC Tribal Representation Workgroup – Chris Utzinger (EMD)

The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) does not include Tribal Representation as part of the SERC Board. Therefore, Tribal Representation will not have voting rights but will continue to serve in an Advisory role.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Annual State Training and Exercise workshop was hosted at the Yakima Office of Emergency Management.

The Adjutant General (TAG) wants to focus on regular training and exercises statewide, and encourages Washington tribal governments to participate.

Pipeline Safety - Brian Felczak, Alternate Westside LEPC Representation/City of Kent

Brian brought up the importance of building relationships with Emergency Management, the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety, Utilities and Transportation Commission and the SERC.

- The next Pipeline meeting is May 29, 2013. Ron Bowen (WSP) reported that he tries to either attend these meeting in person or via conference call.
- SERC should have representation with this group, having Ron Bowen (WSP) as the Primary Representative, Brian Felczak as the Secondary West Representative, and Sean Davis as the Secondary East Representative.
- It was suggested that the Maritime Safety Coalition be invited to do a presentation at an upcoming SERC meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

September 18, 2013 at 1:30 pm., Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned by Chief Whealan at 12:00 p.m.